



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New Orleans District

# Riverside

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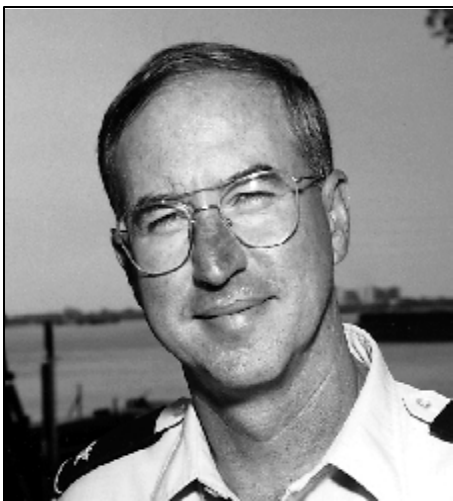
August 2001

A photograph of a construction site. Two workers wearing hard hats and safety vests are standing on a concrete structure, looking at a large, rusted metal wall. The wall is made of vertical corrugated metal sheets. In the background, there are more construction materials and structures.

***SELA digs***

**Picture perfect**

Memories of Engineers Day Picnic



## Col. Thomas F. Julich

### *A new vision for the Project Management Business Process*

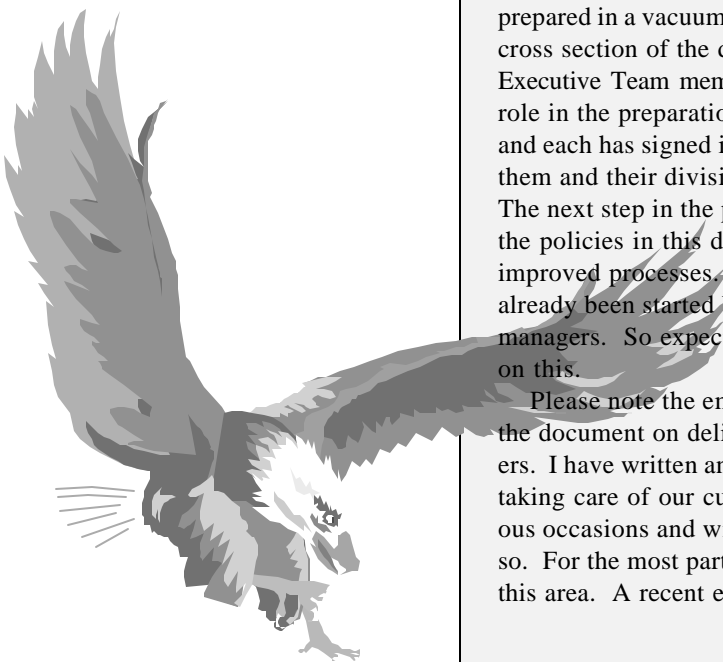
On July 13, I sent each of you a copy of our district's Project Management Business Process (PMBP) Strategic Vision and Policy. There was a tremendous amount of effort put into preparing this document and I commend the team for all of their hard work. It was not prepared in a vacuum, but rather by a cross section of the district. Each of the Executive Team members had a major role in the preparation of the document, and each has signed it. That commits them and their division to the process. The next step in the process is to turn the policies in this document into improved processes. This effort has already been started by our middle managers. So expect to hear more soon on this.

Please note the emphasis throughout the document on delighting our customers. I have written and talked about taking care of our customers on numerous occasions and will continue to do so. For the most part we do very well in this area. A recent example is the

support we provided to USACE Headquarters last month, hosting a visiting group of foreign nationals from Bangladesh (as many of you know we host a number of these type groups throughout the year). Our efforts were praised by the Bangladesh group and USACE, and in fact the New Orleans portion of their visit was considered the highlight. The trip went so well that we were asked to host a second group in late July. We must never lose our focus and strong emphasis on delighting our customers.

### *Hurricane Season*

We're now in the midst of hurricane season. I know that a lot of you have been involved with preparations to ensure that the district is ready to perform our missions in the aftermath of a hurricane. The New Orleans District role would be extremely important to the recovery of this area should a hurricane come our way. I ask that if you have not already taken measures with your families to be prepared, please do so. The personal safety and well being of you and your family are paramount should a hurricane strike Louisiana.



## Riverside

August 2001 Vol. 12 No. 8

### **Commander**

Col. Thomas F. Julich

### **Public Affairs Chief**

Jim Addison

### **Acting Editor**

Shanell Williams

### **Contributing Writers**

John Hall, Eric Hughes, Terri Jackson,

Amanda Padalewski, Leslie Terrell

### **Graphic Artists**

Anne Marino, Elena Napolitano

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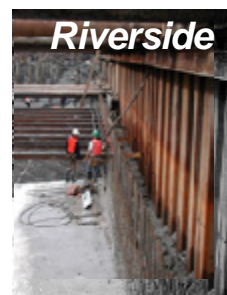


photo by Lane Lefort

Underground canal in Orleans Parish will improve drainage starting September 2002.

# Burt is new deputy commander

By Eric Hughes

The New Orleans District has its first “green-suiter” of the new millennium. He wears the same military colors as his predecessor, only different headgear with the new Army black beret. Lt. Col. Michael R. Burt became deputy district commander June 18, replacing Lt. Col. Dale Knieriemen.

Burt spent the last two years in Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, where he served as chief for the U.S. Army South Exercise Branch, Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer. His military career has taken him around the world, and included a brief encounter with the district while stationed at Fort Polk.

“If I ever got the chance to work at NOD, I thought it would be nice to work here,” said Burt, who served as a platoon leader and company executive officer in the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion at Fort Polk from 1984-85.

Burt was born and raised in South Otselic, a small town of 400 in upstate New York. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps upon graduation from the Virginia Military Institute with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering in 1982. He earned a master’s degree in management from Webster University in Missouri in 1993.

He’s held various military and engineering positions such as company grade officer, battalion adjutant and company commander with the 317<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Mechanized) in Eschborn, Germany. Burt also served as an analyst and observer controller for the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Germany, and was an instructor at the Army Engineer School in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

When Burt became a major, he was facility engineer for the Defense Logistics Agency-Europe, receiving the NATO

Medal for service in Bosnia and Croatia. Afterwards, he transferred to the Los Angeles District as project manager and deputy for Projects Management Division.

Now in New Orleans, Burt said he likes the city, but there was a setback. “I was really looking forward to coming back to the U.S. and

good roads, but I’m a little disappointed.” Other than the roads, he is looking forward to the many festivals, restaurants and his first Mardi Gras experience next year.

As deputy, Burt said his challenges include getting oriented and knowledgeable about the district, its projects and employees. His goals for NOD don’t include making any major changes, but rather to resolve any inefficiencies and make sure employees enjoy coming to work. “You spend the majority of your waking hours at work. If you’re not enjoying work, you’re not enjoying life.”

What does Burt do to enjoy life? He said he likes running and bicycling. Burt and his wife, Kimbel, have been married 18 years. They have a 16-year-old daughter, Tori, and a 12-year-old son, Michael. The family resides on the West Bank.



photo by Mike Maples

# Purdum named chief of Quality Assurance

By Amanda Padalewski

With 28 years at the Corps under his belt, Ward Purdum became the new Quality Assurance Branch chief in New Orleans Area Office on June 3.

Currently, Purdum is in a dual position. While starting as chief of Quality Assurance, Purdum is also acting assistant area engineer in the office.

Quality Assurance Branch reviews construction contracts

before they go out to bid. The branch makes sure that contracts are clear and concise so there’s no confusion between the contractor and the Corps. Purdum says, “It’s important that contractors have quality plans and specifications to bid on and it’s our job to help the district provide that bid document.” The branch also oversees the budget for Construction Division and supports both area offices by providing quality

assurance checks on all construction contracts.

After graduating from Tulane University in 1972, Purdum took advantage of his new degree in civil engineering and made his start with the Corps in Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch. Purdum says a fellow student at Tulane worked at the Corps, and encouraged him to interview at NOD. “I liked the different opportunities within the organization,” he said.

From Engineering Division, he moved to the New Orleans Area Office and then into Construction Division where he became chief of Quality Management Section in 1992.

Purdum is getting into the groove of his new position and says the challenging aspects for him are both on a personal and business level. “Personally, administering the budget will be a challenge.” From a branch standpoint, he says the challenge will be “aligning the branch for success and encouraging a teamwork approach in all that we do.”

“My new position allows me the opportunity to make more of a difference in NOD by developing new working relationships with people across the district.”

When it comes time to kick back and relax, Purdum enjoys fishing and playing golf.



photo by Lane Lefort



By John Hall and Terri Jackson

Contractor Angelo Iafrate has completed a key component of new covered drainage canals on Napoleon Avenue in New Orleans: the tie-in with existing canals on South Broad Street.

"That's the most difficult part" of the South Claiborne Avenue to South Broad Street project, said Tim Roth (CD), resident engineer for Orleans Parish of the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project, or SELA.

This project and two others, on South Claiborne Avenue from Louisiana to Nashville avenues, are tripling the covered-canal capacity to move rainwater to Pump Station No. 1 on South Broad. There, the SELA project to increase pumping capacity by 25 percent is 92 percent complete, with completion expected in November.

"That's not including future rain delays," Roth said. "A half-inch of rain in an hour Uptown shuts us down for two to three days, sometimes five." The three covered-canal projects are to be completed in the second half of 2002.



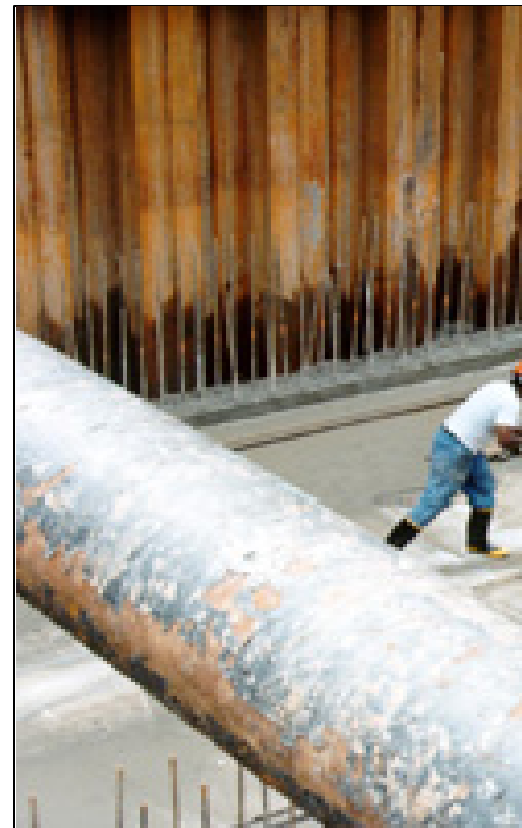
photos by Lane Lefort

Construction Representative Leroy Smith and  
SELA Team Leader Kenneth Crumholt.

## 3X: Corps increasing



Looking east down Napoleon Avenue, a backhoe is used for excavation and a hydraulic crane to service the concrete construction. The hydraulic crane's limited height allows it to work under the oak tree canopy.



From street level, one can see how the construction worker cleans up a recently placed



Looking inside the formwork used for the box culvert, a construction worker installs interior bracing.

# ***Uptown canal capacity***



Two city buses would fit in the new canal. A constructed box culvert base slab.



A construction worker on the top of the box culvert formwork prepares to lower the wall panels for the formwork.



# ***Engineers Day***

*photos by Art Belala, Ashley Gussoni, Amanda Jones  
collage by Amanda Jones, Anne Marino and Nan*



# *Family Picnic 2001*

Jones, Lane Lefort, Anne Marino and Scott Riecke  
Lucy Mayberry



# Engineers Day Activities

## Run/Walk:

### Run-Male

- 1st Jay Ratcliff  
2nd Mail Flannigin  
3rd Bob Martinson  
Bill Rester, tie

### Run-Female

- 1st Dara Baird  
2nd Sue Marlett

### Walk-Male

- 1st Hugh Howat  
2nd Lloyd Magee  
3rd Denis Beer

### Walk-Female

- 1st Michele Bivona  
2nd Christie Nunez  
3rd Brenda Welty



photos by Lane Lefort

**John Agan shows his little runners the finish line for the 50-yard dash.**



## Volleyball:

- 1st NOD Raiders  
2nd FourPeters

**Raider Antoine Jackson shows off the team's first place trophy in the volleyball tournament.**

## Kids' 50-yard dash:

### Boys

#### 3 & under

- 1st Micah Dietrich  
2nd Kenneth Haab  
3rd Lucas Waldron

#### 4-5 years

- 1st Preston Bivona  
2nd Cody Ocain  
3rd William Saucier

#### 6-7 years

- 1st Kyle Rouao  
2nd Dirk Owen  
3rd Cobi Keller

#### 8-9 years

- 1st Skii Dyer  
2nd Tyler Marceaux  
3rd Rodney Jackson  
Joshua Haab, tie

#### 10-12 years

- 1st Matthew Mullet  
2nd Ian O' Cain  
3rd Taylor Brantley

#### 13-15 years

- 1st Kyle Weidenbacher  
2nd Kevin Weidenbacher  
3rd Joseph Wilson

### Girls

#### 3 & under

- 1st Julia Agan  
2nd Brenna Mickal  
3rd Kaylynne Prosper

#### 4-5 years

- 1st Rachel Herr  
2nd Hayley Schwarze  
3rd Ray Lynn Harvey

#### 6-7 years

- 1st Kendall Daigle

- 2nd Ashley Gussoni  
3rd Christin Herr

#### 8-9 years

- 1st Alaina Cook  
2nd Marga DeJong  
3rd Taylor Daigle

#### 10-12 years:

- 1st Lindsey Robinson  
2nd Jamie Mashburn



**Blacks in Government members Wesley Morgan and Darrell Broussard set up camp.**

## Tennis:

- 1st Singles Doug Dillon  
2nd Singles Tommy Maestri  
1st Consolation bracket, Singles Tom Tobin  
1st Doubles Jack Fredine, Windell Curole  
2nd Doubles Don Alette, Paul Oakland

## Golf:

- 1st Gerry Giroir  
Tom Hassenboehler  
Rick Tillman  
2nd Carl Anderson  
Sean Burdine  
Ron Elmer  
Bobby Hufft  
3rd Louie Danflous  
Steve Hebert  
Dan Marsalone  
Lary Yorke  
Closest to the hole:  
#7 Louie Danflous  
#12 Sam Kearns  
#15 Gary LeBlanc

## Cooking Contest:

- 1st Ashley Gussoni (niece of Amanda Jones),  
Peanut Butter Balls  
2nd Juanita Russell, Juanita's Famous Wine Cake  
3rd Bonnie Mickal (wife of Sean Mickal),  
Grandma's Secret Oatmeal Cookies  
Honorable Mention Michael Maples, Mom's  
Oatmeal Cookies



**The FourPeters Volleyball team takes a break from the action.**



# The Corps does Camp Fun

By Leslie Terrell

**J**ulie LeBlanc (PM), Michelle Daigle (OD) and Lydia Quillens (CT) gave up a week of their leave in June to volunteer at Camp Fun, a Southeast Louisiana Girl Scout Council summer day-camp at St. Mary's Academy in New Orleans. Along with other volunteers, they supervised 125 girls, ages 5 to 18.

This year's theme, "Camp Fun Travels the USA," with LeBlanc as assistant director, had crafts and games for states the girls "visited."

"Each day, we did a different state," LeBlanc explained. "We did Louisiana and we had relay games that day, like carry-the-roach-on-the-spoon and crawfish crawl."

LeBlanc has directed the camp since 1991 when her daughter Lydia began attending. LeBlanc's younger daughter, six-year-old Juliette, is now participating. Daigle and Quillens credit LeBlanc for involving them.

"Julie worked for a year and did all the planning, which makes our job much easier. I enjoy it so much because it's so well organized," Daigle said.

The girls participate in crafts and outdoor activities and on the last night they dance, perform skits and eat pizza at a sleepover party. The camp is open to all kids.

Daigle has volunteered for five years and heads two troops of her own. Her two daughters, Kendall and Taylor, have attended camp for five years.

Quillens has volunteered the past four years and also works with a troop.

The ladies said the most rewarding aspect is building friendships and watching the girls grow up.

"You can be walking in the mall and have little kids come up and say, 'I know you! You're from Girl Scout Camp!'" LeBlanc said.

One girl that LeBlanc has known since childhood is Nicole Harris, now

a student at the Corps and an adult Girl Scout volunteer at Camp Fun.

"She's one of those girls that I've watched grow up and now she works here as an engineering student," LeBlanc said.

Quillens continues to volunteer because "I get to see the girls mature and I see them as they grow."



*Courtesy photo*

**Taylor, Michelle Daigle's daughter and her Indian rain stick, a craft she made to represent New Mexico.**

## Show biz

By Leslie Terrell

**T**he Jefferson Parish Public School System Repertory Theater's production of *Annie* in May was successful thanks in part to volunteer Corps employees. Nancy Mayberry (IM),

Art Belala (IM, retired), Skip Jacobs (LM), Scott Riecke (IM) and Trudy Vinger (LM) designed and painted scenes for the play.

Operations Division provided the Shops' warehouses and Partners in Education sponsored the work.

Mayberry, a former art teacher and freelance artist, has helped with Jefferson Repertory and Le Petit Theatres' sets. She also does wood carving, oil paintings, pen and ink drawings and portraits, makes jewelry, builds furniture, illustrates coloring and

children's books and has illustrated two science fiction anthologies. She designed the artwork for *Annie's* sets, but is very modest about her work.

"It really was teamwork. I might have done the designs, but when it came right down to it, I couldn't have possibly gotten them built and painted unless Scott and Skip and everybody else had come in," Mayberry said.

Jacobs explained that the play was very professional despite the tight budget. Sherwin Williams and Delta Contractors donated most of the supplies.

The volunteers painted scenery on 13 canvas flats. For nine days they worked every evening and both weekends to complete the sets on time.

Jacobs, whose daughter Brittany played Annie, said, "When the first curtain opened up and the lights were dim, and then got brighter, that's when you got to see the work. That's when it all paid off—it really looked professional," Jacobs said.



*Courtesy photo*

**Cast members perform a scene from *Annie* in front of a set painted by Corps volunteers.**

# Steamboat history

## *Remembering the Gen. John Newton*

By John Hall

For almost 60 years, people along the Mississippi River and tributaries gazed out on a wonderful sight that represented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Here comes the Gen. John Newton!" would have been the cry as the Corps' steamboat hauled into view. It might be conducting an inspection, rushing to a flood and rescue mission or merely towing work vessels.

The sternwheel churns up a fountain of white fizz. Black, nostril-exciting coal smoke pours out of stacks emblazoned with the Corps castle. And a powerful white cloud heralds the whistle's stirring voice.

Just behind the stacks, the pilot enjoys a panoramic view of the Big River from a magnificent Texas (the pilot house), whose four sides gleam with about 100 panes of glass.

Aft stands the national ensign – a flag noticeably large for the 150-foot boat. It flies above a board that reads: "Gen. John Newton, Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District."

Fire gave the Gen. John Newton life. Coal stoked its boilers for the first 40 years, and oil later.

Fire, sad to say, also took the sternwheeler's life. On Jan. 27, 2000, the Newton burned to the waterline in St. Paul, Minn. Today, the steel hull and wooden wheel remain.

Another survivor is a fine brass bell, proudly displayed at the headquarters of the New Orleans District. It's just 80 feet from the Mississippi where it rang out for so many years, and is now mostly silent. But every so often, somebody gives it a good rap, and it awakens with deep-throated joy.

One of these occasions occurred when the bell hung just outside a building, demolished in the mid-1980s, which housed the district engineer. A Corps employee accepted a dare to risk the ire of angry Corps executives and gave the clapper a hearty swing. And was chased away by a swarm of irate bees

that had been nesting inside.

A plaque with the bell says the Newton was built in 1898 by the Iowa Iron Works in Dubuque, Iowa, and was operated by the Corps of Engineers, 1898-1957.

So the Gen. John Newton lives in memory. There is, for instance, a sweeping photograph in the endpaper of the New Orleans District's history, "Land's End."

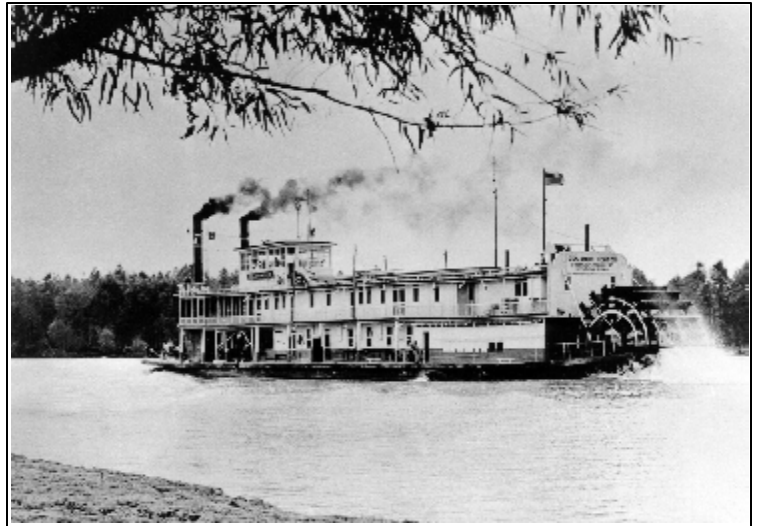
And an oil painting of the Newton hangs today in the district Commander's suite. It was done in 1975 by Kitty Heiberg, the wife of Brig. Gen. E.L. Heiberg III, the district Commander in New Orleans, 1974-75.

The boat was named for Norfolk, Va.-born Brig. Gen. John Newton, who fought for the Union at Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and Atlanta. Newton rose to chief of engineers, 1884-1886. In retirement, he was commissioner of public works in New York City and president of the Panama Canal Railroad Co.

Heiberg himself rose to chief of engineers exactly 100 years later, serving 1984-1988, with the rank of lieutenant general. (Read about the chiefs of engineers at <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/history/coe4.htm>)

The Newton, meanwhile, found a new home in Minneapolis. Known as the Minnesota Centennial Showboat, it was host to drama productions of the University of Minnesota.

"The Showboat closed in 1993, in need of major repairs," says the Web



file photo

**The Gen. John Newton steams into history.**

site of the Padelford Packet Boat Co., an excursion boat company in St. Paul.

"Money was raised to refurbish the Showboat and work was begun. Unfortunately, a spectacular fire (apparently sparks from welding) totally destroyed the Showboat."

Padelford's founder, Capt. William D. Bowell Sr., is building a replacement at Greenville, Miss., and is determined to preserve the original boat's memory.

"I'm trying to make a monument out of the wheel" at Harriet Island in St. Paul.

And what happened to the steam engine and its 32-inch cylinders? Well, it's back home, acquired for possible future use by the New Orleans Steamboat Co. The excursion line operates the Natchez, a sternwheeler with an authentic steam engine, a rare commodity today.

"It's in a warehouse here in New Orleans," said Gordon Stevens, the steamboat company president.

"We've had it for more than 15 years."

Finally, *Riverside* did this story for a reason. A citizen, who'd photographed the Newton decades ago in her Corps days, inquired as to her fate. And we thought the story was worth telling to a wider audience.

# Around the District

## Congratulations

to **Ernest H. Amedee** (ED), whose late father, Attorney Earl J. Amedee Sr., was honored in a dedication ceremony July 26. Judge Arthur Hunter named Section K Court, a criminal district courtroom in Orleans Parish, after Amedee.

Amedee played a major role in the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, running for several state and local offices, including governor, and risking his life to increase African-American voter registration in Louisiana. He was the first African-American assistant district attorney in 1958.

to **Rachel Beer** (PM), who passed the Certified Floodplain Management exam. She is one of nine CFMs in Louisiana.

to **Bruce Breaux** (OD), whose daughter Jamie Breaux received a 4.0 GPA this spring semester at Our Lady of Holy Cross College. She was also initiated into the education honor society Kappa Delta Pi and was elected treasurer of another education society.

to **Tracy Falk** (OD), who took the professional engineering exam in Baton Rouge April 20 and is now a licensed professional engineer.

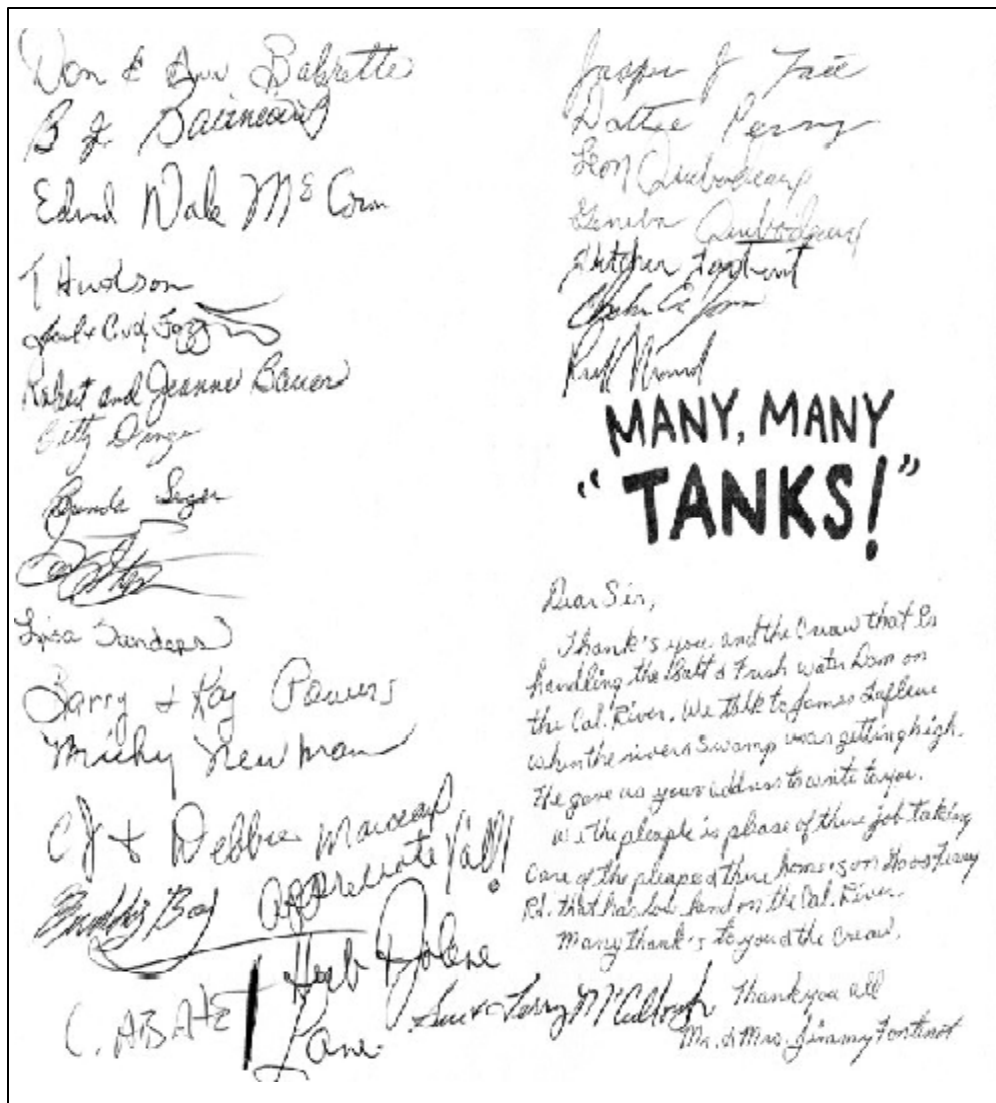
to **Fred Lachney** (IM), whose wife **Fay** (RE) recently won 10 gold medals in her age group in the Louisiana Swimming Games competition at Elmwood Fitness Center.

to **Emily Mullet** (OD), whose son Matthew pitches for Little Farms Playground and helped his baseball team win the title of East Bank Division Champions. Congratulations also to Mullet's nephew, Ben Benfield, who was awarded a \$100,000 basketball scholarship for Tulane University and will be wearing #30 on the Green Wave team this season.

to **Leo J. O'Dowd** (retired, ED) and his wife Elinor, who celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Aug. 8. Leo retired 28 years ago with 38 years of service. Leo and Elinor are the parents of **Mike O'Dowd** (IHNC Lock).

to **Gerard Satterlee** (ED), whose daughter Amy married Joseph Trahan June 16 at Holy Name of Jesus Church in New Orleans.

to **Steven A. Schinetsky** (OD), whose daughter Johlee competed in the Dance Teachers United Convention July 6-8 in Biloxi.



**Local residents sent their thanks to the crew of Calcasieu River Saltwater Barrier Lock for protecting their homes during the recent high river stage. The card's cover showed cartoon Army tanks.**

## Condolences

to the family of **William C. Bradley** (ED), who died July 27.

to the family of **Ira "Mac" C. McAdams, Jr.** (drill operator), who died June 29.

to the family of **Stanley R. Moscau** (retired), who died Jan. 17.

to **Robin B. Ryland** (Old River Lock), whose father **Otis E. Ryland** (boat operator, retired) died July 24.

to **Clifton Dale Stapleton** (OD), whose father Clifton Stapleton died July 24.

## Farewell

to **John Dufrechou** (CD), from the New Orleans Area Office, who retired July 3 after 35 years of service.

to **Ted Hokkanen** (PM), who retired after 30 years of service July 3.



# Talk Back

*Last month we solicited your comments on "Recreation."  
Here is the response we received:*

## **Use our Web site to promote recreation**

The best way to promote our recreation mission is through our Web page. It's that simple!

Several years ago, I was assigned the task of researching links to our district Web page from various Internet search engines. We honestly did not expect to find very many at the time. Instead, I found numerous links from far flung places such as Australia and New Zealand. Few of these were linked to a Corps Web page as a result of someone wanting to know about flood control or navigation. Instead, the common denominator for most of the Corps links was our reputation for having some of the best campgrounds in the USA. Foreign travelers basically wanted to find nice, clean, inexpensive and safe places to stay in the USA, and the Corps ranks high on many lists. I can also personally attest to the quality of Corps campgrounds.

Most of the Corps campgrounds are located at the various dams around the

country. Louisiana may have very few dams, but we have one unique drawing card that is extremely big around the world now, that being our Cajun culture. The Sherburne Wildlife Management Area sits right in the heart of Cajun country, and I understand that this will soon become a major Corps recreation area. No mention is made of Sherburne in the recreation section of our district Web page. The information on NOD recreation only briefly mentions camping for Bonnet Carre and the Atchafalaya Basin. This needs more information instead of just an e-mail address. The existing information on Bonnet Carre for ATV enthusiasts is good, but this may also serve to keep campers away. Some clarification needs to be made that the ATV trails are located far enough away from the camp sites, thus minimizing the noise. If properly described in our Web page, Bonnet Carre could appeal to both campers and ATV enthusiasts.

*-Paul Bellocq, Engineering*

*\* Paul is the winner of a reserved parking space.*

**TO HAVE YOUR  
IDEAS PRINTED  
IN THE NEXT ISSUE**

**AND**

**WIN A RESERVED  
PARKING SPOT FOR  
AN ENTIRE MONTH**

**RESPOND BY  
AUGUST 28**

**LET US KNOW WHAT  
YOU THINK ABOUT  
THIS MONTH'S  
Talk Back TOPIC:**

**ENGINEERS DAY PICNIC**

**>HOW CAN THE DISTRICT  
INCREASE PARTICIPATION  
AT ENGINEERS DAY?**

**>WHAT WAYS COULD WE  
IMPROVE THE PICNIC?**

*The editor reserves the  
right to pick which re-  
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